SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

21 JULY 2000

$2.95

Mature Readers

Carole Curtis

Katmandu

Katmandu

The Peacekeeper
CONCLUSION

LEAHTRAH IS TELLING HER CHILDREN ABOUT **RAKON**, A FOE OF LISKA'S

MARCH! IT'S TIME FOR YOUR AFTERNOON NAP!

AW, MOM! WE WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT LISKA AND RAKON.

ONCE YOU'RE IN BED, YOU WILL.

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS

PENCILS: SHAWNTAE HOWARD
INKS: ED GARCIA / DEBRA COLVIN
LETTERS: CHARLES GRAY

KITTENS, LISKA WAS **VERY** CONCERNED. RAKON HAD BEATEN HER IN THE CONTEST OF BALANCE, SO THE SCORE WAS TIED. TO RECOVER SHAYGIN'S HAIR, SHE WOULD HAVE TO DEFEAT RAKON IN THEIR LAST CONTEST.

WHAT ABOUT MARKREE AND RIAL?

YEAH, MARKREE WAS REAL MAD.

ARE THEY GONNA FIGHT?

YES, NOW QUIET DOWN. IT WAS THE SECOND AND LAST DAY OF THE INTERTRIBAL TOURNEY. IT WOULD BE ONE OF THE LONGEST DAYS OF LISKA'S LIFE--

OHHH-- SHAYGIN? IS THE SUN UP YET?

IT'S BEEN UP A **LONG** TIME. BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT.

THEA AND I HEARD ALL YOU WARRIORS SWAPPING STORIES LATE INTO THE NIGHT, DRINKING AND BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR **GREAT** HUNTS AND BATTLES.

THEN YOU STAGGER INTO OUR TENT, REELING AND LAUGHING AND **FALL** INTO OUR FURS.

YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY I BROUGHT COOL STONES FOR YOUR BROW.

SHAYGIN-- THESE INTERTRIBAL THINGS DON'T HAPPEN OFTEN.

TOO OFTEN, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.

WE WERE ALL ALONE. WHAT IF RAKON HAD STORMED INTO OUR TENT?

THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN-

CHIEF POWNETKEE HAS A GUARD ON RAKON'S TENT TO KEEP HIM CIVIL.

OH! I WISH YOU HAD TOLD ME.

I ONLY FOUND OUT LAST NIGHT. I HAD BEEN WATCHING HIS TENT AND MET THE GUARD.

SHAYGIN, PLEASE HAND ME MY LEATHERS. I HAVE TO FIND RIAL AND TALK TO HIM BEFORE HE FIGHTS MARKREE.

WHAT A MESS!

YES. MARKREE AND RIAL COMPETE IN WRESTLING, WHILE I FACE RAKON IN STALKING.

THAT WRIST STILL GIVING YOU TROUBLE?

JUST A LITTLE...

RIAL, THIS WRESTLING MATCH WITH MARKREE TODAY-

GO AHEAD LISKA. I EXPECTED THIS.

I **WON'T** ASK YOU TO DO LESS THAN YOUR BEST.

I WORRY YOU'LL GET HURT AND I WORRY THE SAME ABOUT MARKREE.

OF COURSE. BUT MARKREE IS THE ONE YOU'LL BE MOST CONCERNED FOR. HE'S YOUR BROTHER, AFTER ALL.

AND YOU ARE THE FATHER OF MY CHILDREN. DO NOT BELITTLE THAT.

AND I NEED A FAVOR.

I FACE RAKON IN THE STALKING COMPETITION, AT THE SAME TIME YOU AND MARKREE FACE EACH OTHER.

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE I DO, PLEASE GO TO MY TENT AND WATCH OVER SHAYGIN AND THEA.

I PROMISE.

WAIT, MOM. WRESTLING WE UNDERSTAND. BUT HOW DID THEY COMPETE IN A STALKING CONTEST?

YEAH.

NOW EACH WARRIOR WAS A GOOD STALKER. THEY **HAD** TO BE, OR THEY'D STARVE. BUT IN A COMPETITION, THERE WERE SPECIAL RULES.

FIRST, A TUFTED GRAPPA WAS TIED TO A STAKE IN A CLEARING.

THE WARRIOR WOULD APPROACH THE GRAPPA. HE WOULD USE ALL HIS SKILLS TO KEEP THE BIRD FROM NOTICING HIM.

IF THE GRAPPA SAW THE WARRIOR IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO FLY AWAY, DISQUALIFYING THE WARRIOR. IF HE COULD GRASP THE BIRD BY THE NECK BEFORE IT SAW HIM, HE WON THE COMPETITION.

YOU KNOW, I MARRIED YOU AND I LOVE YOU, BUT AT TIMES YOU'RE NOT VERY SMART.

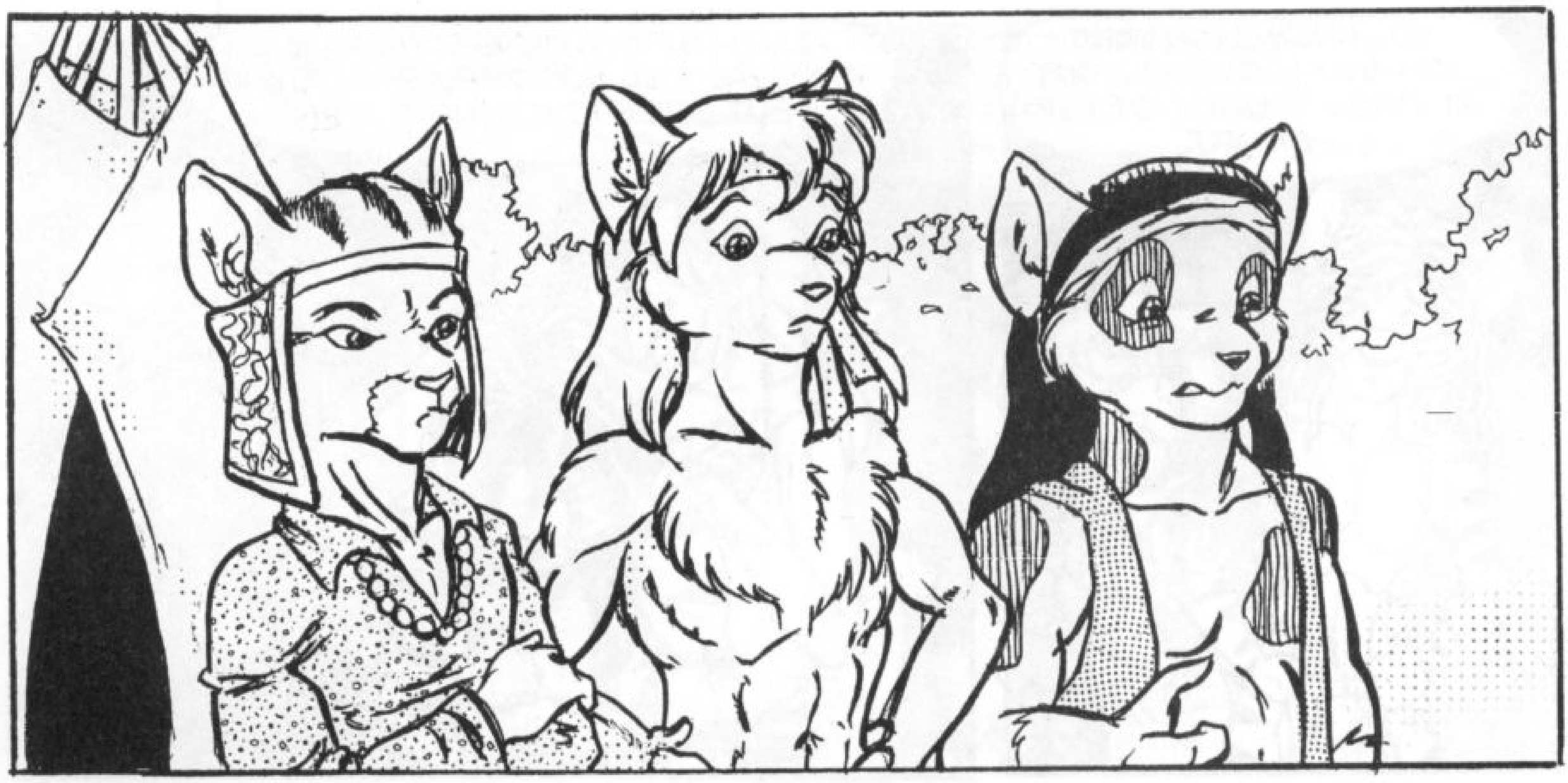
ALL THIS FIGHTING BETWEEN YOU AND RIAL WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING BUT GRIEF FOR YOUR SISTER.

IT WILL DO MORE THEN THAT.

HE TOOK MY SISTER FROM ME, AND EACH TIME I SEE HER CARRYING HIS KITTENS IT REMINDS ME THAT HE STILL DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS WITH HER.

BUT NOT WITH ME. I'M NOT A LITTLE BOY ANYMORE AND IT'S TIME HE LEARNED THAT.

AND I'M GOING TO TEACH HIM... HE MIGHT BOSS HER, BUT NOT **ME**!



IS THERE NO ONE LEFT IN THIS TRIBE TO CHALLENGE ME?

HOW ABOUT YOU TWO? YOU LOOK READY TO FIGHT.

IT'S A PRIVATE MATCH. YOU'RE NOT INVITED.

OH YEAH. I KNOW YOU TWO.

YOU'RE ALLIED WITH THAT FEMALE WHO DRESSES AS A MALE. EITHER ONE OF YOU THE FATHER OF HER LITTER?

I LIKE YOUR FUR.

YOU DO?

YES. IT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON THE WALL OF MY LODGE.

LITTLE BLACK RUNT, I'LL HAVE HER **AND** HER WIFE BEFORE THIS DAY ENDS.

SHAYGIN-- IT'S ELISHAA. CAN I COME IN?

YES.

MARKREE TRADED FOR THIS NEW KNIFE. I THOUGHT I'D BRING IT TO SHOW YOU.

IT LOOKS NICE. LET'S KEEP IT HERE-

-SO IT'S HANDY.

-RIGHT.

A TOURNAMENT IS NOT FOR SETTLING PERSONAL DISPUTES. BUT THIS BLOOD FEUD BETWEEN YOU TWO WILL END **NOW.**

GRAPPA.

Grappa
Grappa

I HAVE THE BIRD!

BUT NOT BY THE NECK. YOU HAVE FAILED, RAKON.

STAY DOWN! LET THIS END!

NO!

I'M GOING TO WIN BECAUSE I'M OLDER AND MORE EXPERIENCED THEN YOU ARE.

BUT I'LL **TEACH** YOU. LIKE I'M TEACHING **LISKA.**

AND THIS ENDS **NOW!**

ONE-TWO! ...RIAL WINS!

THIS IS A GOOD IDEA, LISKA.

THE DUST WILL HELP ME BLEND IN, PYNDAN.

CALM... CALM LITTLE GRAPPA...

WELL, TALL TREE.

I'VE BEATEN YOU IN TWO CONTESTS.

NOW YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME.

OF COURSE. LET'S GO.

BE CAREFUL LISKA. I'D GO WITH YOU, BUT **MY** STALKING CONTEST IS NEXT AND I WANT TO TRY YOUR DUST TRICK.

DON'T WORRY. HE WON'T TRY ANYTHING DURING THIS INTERTRIBAL GATHERING.

I DIDN'T REALIZE **EVERYONE** WOULD BE AT THE MATCHES.

OOOO

HERE WE ARE. COME IN AND I'LL GET YOUR "WIFES" HAIR FROM MY WARCLUB.

THANKS. I'LL STAY HERE. BRING IT OUTSIDE.

YOU'LL COME IN HERE, WOMAN-

WE THINK SHE'LL STAY OUT HERE.

DON'T WE, MARKREE?

THAT'S RIGHT.

MY SISTER CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.

BUT RIAL WORRIES ABOUT HIS CHILD SHE CARRIES. TOO MUCH WALKING ISN'T GOOD FOR IT, SO I'LL GO INSIDE WITH YOU FOR THAT TROPHY HAIR.

HERE, SHE-MALE. THIS VICTORY IS YOURS.

BUT I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMETIME.

WAIT, MOM! DIDN'T LISKA BEAT HIM IN A FIGHT?

NO, LOANZAH, NOT THIS TIME. RAKON LEFT WITH HIS TRIBE WHEN THE TOURNEY WAS OVER.

RAKON WAS VERY IMPORTANT IN LISKA'S LIFE, CHILDREN. WHEN SHE MET HIM SHE LEARNED SHE WOULD HAVE TO TRAIN HARDER.

BECAUSE SHE KNEW ONE DAY THEY WOULD MEET IN BATTLE ALONE, AND SHE WOULD HAVE TO BE READY.

WELL-- THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME, NOW **NAP**, MY KITTENS.

I BET SHE WHIPPED HIS TAIL NEXT TIME, HUH?

WHY, MOM?

DID SHE FINALLY KILL RAKON, MOTHER?

NEXT ISSUE: TRAVELING COMPANIONS